



Washington State Department of Financial Institutions

P.O. Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200

1.877.RING.DFI • www.dfi.wa.gov

Regulating financial services to protect and educate the public and promote economic vitality

Protect Yourself from becoming a victim of Identity Theft

- **Check your credit report** frequently (1 time a year from each of the 3 major bureaus).
www.annualcreditreport.com
- **Check bill, bank, and credit card statements** frequently.
- **Opt out of pre-screened offers, telemarketing calls, and unsolicited commercial mail:**
<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0262-stopping-unsolicited-mail-phone-calls-and-email>
- **Learn more about the types of scams you need to watch for** at www.dfi.wa.gov/consumers/alerts.htm

What to do if you become a victim of Identity Theft

- **Contact your financial institution.**
- **Close the account.**
- **Place a fraud alert** on your credit reports.
 - Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
 - Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN
 - TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289
- **File a police report.**
- **Possibly request a security freeze.**
 - Requesting a Freeze <http://www.atg.wa.gov/security-freeze-procedures>
 - **Identity theft victims and adults ages 65 and older are able to place a freeze for free.** Consumers who aren't entitled to a free freeze pay up to \$10 per bureau.
 - **As of Sept. 1, 2008, anyone can request a security freeze.**
- File a complaint with the Washington AG's Office. <http://www.atg.wa.gov/FileAComplaint.aspx>
- File a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center <http://www.ic3.gov>
- Get more information at www.crimevictims.gov.

What if a student becomes a victim of Identity Theft

- **Office of Crime Victims Advocacy**
 - Voice within government for the needs of crime victims in Washington State
 - (800) 822-1067 Hotline www.ocva.wa.gov

Additional Resources

- **FTC** www.ftc.gov/idtheft/
- **On Guard Online**
 - www.onguardonline.gov
 - LOTS of great information & games, videos, etc. to get kids interested.
- **DFI** www.dfi.wa.gov/consumers/campaigns.htm
- **Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force** www.StopFraud.gov
- **5 tips from USA Today** to stay safe on public Wi-Fi: <http://usat.ly/Rs9O4S>

<https://dfi.wa.gov/documents/financial-education/all-in-one-handout.pdf>



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Protect Your Credit Score Resources

- **FICO® Scores are calculated based on your rating in five general categories:**

Amounts Owed-30%

Payment History- 35%

Length of Credit History- 15%

New Credit-10%

Types of Credit Used- 10%

- **You are entitled to 1 free credit report a year from each of the major credit bureaus.** You may request your credit report online, over the phone, or through the mail. **You can purchase your credit score** when retrieving your free credit report or by contacting one of the nationwide consumer credit reporting companies.
 - **Equifax** - www.equifax.com
 - **Experian** - www.experian.com
 - **TransUnion** - www.transunion.com
 - **VantageScore** - www.vantagescore.com
- **For more information, visit the official Web site of the 3 major credit bureaus -** www.annualcreditreport.com
- **Get more information at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling -** <http://www.nfcc.org/>
- **Fair Isaac Corporation - Your Credit Score** http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/money/creditscores/your.htm
- **FTC and FRB - Information about Credit** <http://www.ftc.gov/credit> and https://www.federalreserve.gov/creditreports/pdf/credit_reports_scores_2.pdf

Vantage Score 501-990 ABCDF

FICO Score 300-850

Equifax: Call 1-888-202-4025 or visit www.equifax.com/vantagescore/lenders.html.

Experian: Call 1-888-414-1120 or visit www.experian.com/products/vantagescore.html.

TransUnion: Call 866-922-2100 or visit <http://www.transunion.com/credit-score>



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Investing Checklist

Where to Turn for Help with Investments

Investor Checklist

The key to finding the right investment services provider is asking the right questions - both of you and of prospective providers. Below are some questions that should help you identify the right provider for you.

Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Invest

- Do you need help developing strategies to reach your financial goals or do you simply want suggestions on appropriate investment products to implement your goals?
- Do you want assistance with a few targeted areas, or do you need a comprehensive plan for your finances?
- Do you already have a portfolio of investments you would like help managing?
- How involved do you want to be in decisions about your specific investments?
- Do you prefer paying for investment services through a fee, commissions, a percentage of assets in your account, or a combination of these?
- Do you prefer working with someone who is primarily considered a salesperson, an adviser, or a combination of the two?
- How important is it to you that your provider has a legal obligation to act in your best interests and disclose potential conflicts of interest?

Questions to Ask Your Investment Services Provider

- What services do you offer?
- What qualifications do you have to offer those services?
- How do you charge for those services?
- Do you receive compensation from other sources if you recommend that I buy a particular stock, mutual fund, or bond?
- Would my account be an advisory account or a brokerage account?
- Are you required by law to always act in my best interests?
- Will you put that commitment in writing?
- What potential conflicts of interest do you have when recommending investment products to me, and will you disclose those conflicts?
- Will you provide me with a written record of any disciplinary history for you and your firm?
- Will you give me your Form ADV (the registration form that must be filed by investment advisers) and/or your Form U4 (the registration form used by persons who work with brokers)?

Source: The Coalition on Investor Education

Verify License/Whether Complaints Have Been Filed/Action Taken

- FINRA Broker Check www.finra.org/brokercheck
- SEC Investment Adviser www.adviserinfo.sec.gov
- WA State Seller www.dfi.wa.gov/sd
- An Investment www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml
- To verify a CPAs license <http://www.cpaboard.wa.gov> or whether there have been complaints/actions taken against them <http://www.cpaboard.wa.gov/consumer-protection/investigation-statistics>

<https://dfi.wa.gov/documents/financial-education/all-in-one-handout.pdf>



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Have you accessed the investor education resources available FREE of charge?

- Washington Department of Financial Institutions
 - <http://dfi.wa.gov/consumers/education/investments.htm>
 - <http://dfi.wa.gov/consumers/topscams.htm>
 - http://dfi.wa.gov/consumers/invest_scam_notice.htm (signs of fraud)
- Securities and Exchange Commission
 - www.investor.gov
- SEC's Public Alert: Unregistered Soliciting Entities (PAUSE) site
 - <http://www.sec.gov/investor/oiepauselist.htm>
- Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)
 - www.saveandinvest.org
 - <http://www.finra.org/Investors/index.htm>
- Investor Protection Trust (IPT)
 - <http://www.investorprotection.org/learn-about-investing/>
 - http://dfi.wa.gov/sd/investor_education.htm
- Investor Protection Trust (IPT) Basics of Saving and investing (online PDF)
 - <http://www.investorprotection.org/teach-investing/?fa=basics>
- North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA)
 - <http://www.nasaa.org/investor-education/>
- Military One Source
 - <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/pfm>
- Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
 - <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/>
- Choose to Save Ballpark Estimate retirement calculator
 - <https://www.choosetosave.org/ballpark/>
- Kiplinger
 - www.kiplinger.com
- Money Track
 - www.moneytrack.org

Where to find an investment adviser/planner

(NOTE: Not every adviser is a member of one of these organizations. DFI does not endorse any of these organizations or their members over any other licensed adviser. It is important to verify license to do business and whether or not they've had complaints filed or actions taken against them.)

- National Association of Professional Financial Advisors www.napfa.org
- Financial Planning Association www.fpanet.org
- Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. www.cfp.net/search
- American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) <https://www.aicpa.org/content/aicpa>

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Financial Education Resources at Your Fingertips

Washington partners offer financial education/resources

- DFI strives to be the hub of FinEd information in WA - www.dfi.wa.gov/financial-education
- www.wajumpstart.org - Your local Jump\$Start Coalition
- <https://www.juniorachievement.org/web/ja-washington/> – Junior Achievement
- www.feppp.org - Financial Education Public Private Partnership – K-12

WA Reviewed Curriculum - Core Financial Curriculum

- Council for Economic Education (CEE): Financial Fitness for Life
<http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/FinancialFitnessforLife.html>
- CEE: Financing Your Future <http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/FinancingYourFuture.html>
- FDIC: Money Smart for Young Adults
<http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/MoneySmartforYoungAdults.html>
- JA Worldwide: <http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/VariousPrograms.html>
- Money Savvy Generation: Money Savvy Kids <http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/MoneySavvyKids.html>
- National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) High School Financial Planning Program
<http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/NEFEHighSchool.html>
- University of Arizona: Family Economics & Financial Education
<http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/FamilyEconomics.html>
- Wells Fargo: Hands on Banking El futuro en tus manos
<http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/HandsonBanking.html>

WA Reviewed Curriculum - Supplemental Financial Curriculum

- Corwin: Teaching Money Applications to Make Mathematics Meaningful
<http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/TeachingMoney.html>
- Council for Economic Education: Risky Business <http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/RiskyBusiness.html>
- LifeWise: Money Habitudes for Teens <http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/MoneyHabitudes.html>
- The Young Adult Consumer Education Trust (YACET): Consumer Jungle
<http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/ConsumerJungle.html>
- Myvesta Foundation <http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/MoneyPersonalityTest.html>
- EverFi online <http://www.feppp.org/FEPPPCurriculum/EverFiforHighSchool.html>
- Next Gen Personal Finance: <https://www.ngpf.org/>

National Resources – K-12

- <http://takechargetoday.arizona.edu/> - U of A Family Economics and Financial Education
- BizKids www.bizkids.com/ online, videos done by kids for kids
- <http://www.mymoney.gov/Pages/for-youth.aspx> from the U.S. Financial Literacy and Education Commission
- <http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com> - From Visa. Curriculum, games, activities, podcasts and more!
- Jump\$Start Coalition Clearinghouse <https://www.jumpstart.org/what-we-do/support-financial-education/clearinghouse/>
- <https://www.hsfpp.org/> - NEFE's HS program is FREE and easy to use. (Watch for ©)
- www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/young.html Free, non-copyrighted curriculum
- <http://fffl.councilforeconed.org> - Financial Fitness for Life

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National Resources – Adult

- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/older-americans/> and <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/servicemembers/>
- <http://www.mymoney.gov> - Web site for national financial literacy and education commission.
- Federal Trade Commission for the Consumer <http://www.ftc.gov/moneymatters>
- Consumer Information from the Federal Government <http://www.consumer.gov>
- FDIC Money Smart for adults <http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/adult.html>
- 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy <http://www.360financialliteracy.org/>
- Money Management International <http://www.moneymanagement.org/>
- FRED – Federal Reserve Education <http://federalreserveeducation.org/>
- NEFE’s evaluation toolkit for teachers and orgs <http://www.hsfpp.org/about-the-program/evaluation.aspx>
- Financial Planning for Gen X & Gen Y Women <http://wiseupwomen.tamu.edu/>
- www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart Free, non-copyrighted curriculum

Online/Interactive Resources

Elementary

- <http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/games/peterpigs/> Teaches counting and coin values
- <http://financeintheclassroom.org/student/activities.shtml> A number of interactive games to choose from,
- <http://www.hoodamath.com/games/pocketchange.html> Pocket Change
- <http://financialentertainment.org/> - Doorways to Dreams - D2D – games – interactivity for youth
- <http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/save>
Sesame Street: For Me, For You, For Later

Middle School

- <http://www.genirevolution.org/> combines with CFE Learning, Earning and Investing
- <http://www.monetta.com/educational-games.html> Interactive methods often engage more effectively
- <http://www.saveandinvest.org/FinancialBasics/Teens/> FINRA for youth – Teens
- <http://apps.finra.org/moneytopia/> FINRA
- <http://www.gametheoryacademy.org/> Free resources to get teens thinking about what they do with their money and why
- <http://www.scholastic.com/browse/lessonplan.jsp?id=1410> IntuitMint.com personal finance lesson plans
- <http://www.themint.org> - Fun financial literacy activities for kids, teens, teachers, and parents.

High School

- Money Matters for young adults <http://moneymattersmakeitcount.com/Pages/default.aspx>
- <http://www.channelone.com/generation-money/> FINRA, America Saves and Channel One offer
- <http://lei.councilforeconed.org/> program
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/economics-finance-domain> Short video tutorials on finance concepts

Social Media: Follow who we follow

- Twitter: @FinEd4All www.twitter.com/FinEd4All
- Twitter: @DFIConsumers www.twitter.com/DFIConsumers
- Facebook: State of Washington Department of Financial Institutions <https://www.facebook.com/wadfi/>
- DFI Financial Education Blog: <http://dfi.wa.gov/financial-education/blog>
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K-12 Resources for Educators and their Students

- <http://www.moneyasyoulearn.org/> Tools for educators from the US Department of Treasury. Activities and lessons designed to align with the common core.
- <http://www.econedlink.org/> Econ Ed Link is sponsored by the Council for Economic Education. Find curriculum, games, worksheets and more from the Council for Economic Education
- <https://www.frbatlanta.org/education/publications/extra-credit.aspx> An online newsletter, posting articles six times a year, designed to help teachers looking for timely information on economic and personal finance topics, lesson plans, and ideas for use in the classroom. Each issue also includes a calendar of upcoming teacher workshops or other events offered by the Fed or its education partners.
- Vanguard's online resources for the classroom/classroom economy <http://www.myclassroomeconomy.org>
- The Basics of Saving and Investing 2020 curriculum download <http://www.investorprotection.org/teach-investing/?fa=basics>
- <http://federalreserveeducation.org/> FRED – Federal Reserve Education

Young Adult/College

- www.debtslapped.org DFI worked with CENTS to distribute these CDs on credit/debt & college and www.debtslappedgrad.org for after the student graduates
- <https://www.commoncraft.com/videlist> Think UPS whiteboard ads on a variety of topics
- www.mint.com Teen-Adult – online personal finance/budgeting software
- Financial Aid for College <http://studentaid.ed.gov/>
- CFPB on paying for college <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/>

Adults

- IRS YouTube channel spots on variety of topics <http://www.youtube.com/irsvideos>
- Compare financial institutions' interest rates, credit card rates, mortgage rates, etc. <http://www.depositaccounts.com>
- <http://www.finra.org/investors> FINRA is an independent, not-for-profit organization authorized by Congress to protect America's investors by making sure the securities industry operates fairly and honestly. Get investor alerts, check the background of brokers or submit complaints about brokers.
- <http://www.occ.gov/topics/community-affairs/resource-directories/financial-literacy/index-financial-literacy.html> OCC resource directory
- Order free publications from the CFPB <http://promotions.usa.gov/cfpbpubs.html>
- <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/askcfpb> An interactive question-and-answer database to help consumers find answers to questions about money products and services.
- www.moneygeek.com Money Geek has personal finance articles on topics such as mortgages, education funding, elder fraud, etc.

Find a class near you or schedule a community workshop

- WA DFI <http://dfi.wa.gov/financial-education/calendar.htm>
- Washington Asset Building <https://dfi.wa.gov/financial-education/presentation-request>
- Consumer Counseling www.nfcc.org

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Budgeting/Planning Keep More \$ in Your Wallet

Budget

To increase savings without increasing income – you need to take charge of your spending.

#1 – and we can't stress this enough: **Write It Down!** Make it "real" by putting it in writing, whether that's in a notebook, in Quicken or in your own spreadsheet. Once you have it in writing – REVIEW it as a family. You'd be surprised what other members of the family will be willing to sacrifice if it means there's a payoff in the end (summer vacation, college tuition, a car, etc.)

Start by calculating the bare minimum you need each month to survive – this means true NEEDS (FYI – cable and Internet access are not 'needs'):

- Rent/Mortgage
- Food
- Utilities (electricity, water, sewer, telephone)
- Outstanding debts/bills (credit, student loans, vehicle)
- Insurance (vehicle and health)
- Misc. necessary expenses (prescriptions)

Get Debt-Free

Those credit cards come at a price. Do a separate spread sheet for these so you can see what it's costing you — and get a better idea of how best to pay them off.

- Pay off the card on which you pay the most interest. Read that again. A lot of folks say pay the card with the highest interest rate – but if you have a larger balance on a card with a lower interest rate, you may still be paying more in interest on that card than on the card you have the higher interest rate on.
- Don't close cards out right away – this can actually HURT your credit score.
- Don't stop using cards altogether – this, too, can HURT your credit score.
- Use them occasionally, but pay them off regularly.

Work Toward Your Goal(s)

Look at total household income versus total payments. Where can you make cuts to save money? Then, consider your options for that "extra" income. Make it work to meet your future goals. Are you saving for a summer vacation? Home remodel? New appliances? College? Retirement?

Resources to get started

- ❑ Saving Money on Groceries <http://financialplan.about.com/od/savingmoney/a/GroceryTips.htm>
- ❑ Save Money on Your Utilities <https://www.choosetosave.org/tips/index.html>
- ❑ Save Money at The Gas Pump www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/energysavings/savegas/flash.html
- ❑ Save Money on Entertainment <http://www.kiplinger.com/article/saving/T050-C000-S001-save-money-on-entertainment.html>
- ❑ Save Money on Phone, Internet, TV www.kiplinger.com/features/archives/2008/02/save_on_phone.html
- ❑ More Resources and Tips <http://americasaves.org/for-savers/make-a-plan-how-to-save-money/54-ways-to-save-money>
- ❑ Kiplinger Budget Worksheet <http://www.kiplinger.com/tools/budget>
- ❑ Budget Your Resources <http://www.360financialliteracy.org/Topics/Budgeting-Spending/Budgeting-and-Saving/Establishing-a-budget>

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